the importance that they deserve and not recognizing them as a separate entities.

The Central Govt. provides assistance for various components of wetland conservation and management like catchment area treatment, de-silting, dredging; biodiversity conservation, deweeding & awareness-creation for wetlands generally of the size of 100 hectares and above. However, wetlands of smaller size with unique biodiversity and cultural significance may also be assisted. Assistance for wetlands is provided on the basis of well-formulated Management Action Plans received from State Govts.

Euro-III

4710. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has expressed its inability to supply fuel and as a result switching over to Euro-III is delayed by one year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Reliance industries has also expressed its inability to produce Euro-III fuel till next year;

(c) if so, how the Ministry is thinking of implementing Euro-III norms in the country; and

(d) the details of cities that are now following Euro-I, II and III norms in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Euro III equivalent emission norms have been implemented for new vehicles, except 2 & 3 wheelers, in 11 mega cities from April, 1, 2005, in accordance with the road map of Auto Fuel Policy.

(d) Bharat Stage-II emission norms for Petrol driven vehicles including 2 & 3 wheelers have been introduced all over the country from April 1,2005. For diesel driven vehicles also, these norms have been introduced all over the country from 1st April, 2005, except in the seven States namely Rajasthan, West Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab where they are to be implemented in a phased manner by 1st October, 2005. In the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Pune, Surat, Kanpur

and Agra, Euro III equivalent emission norms have been introduced from April 1, 2005.

Steps to augment forest growth in Orissa

4711. DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of growth targeted and achieved in generating forest resources in Orissa during the last five years; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to augment forest growth in the districts of Orissa which are predominantly tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages to have a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. The approach paper of Planning Commission also envisages increase in the forest cover to 25% by the year 2007 and to 33% by the year 2012. During the last five years (2000-01 to 2004-05), 135800 hectares of new forests has been created in the State of Orissa.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to augment the forest growth are as follows:

(i) Creation of new forests through massive tree planting.

(ii) The management and protection of degraded and open forests is being assigned to Vana Sankrakshyana Samiti (VSS) for management of these forests in accordance with Joint Forest Management (JFM) concept.

(iii) Massive plantation programme is being taken up under National Afforestation Programme (NAP) through Forest Development Agencies (FDA). In the State 32 FDAs are now functioning and 27,900 hectares of forest area has been developed during the last two years.

Most of the above scheme are being implemented in predominantly tribal districts.